organisations for organising celebrations of centenaroes/anniversaries of eminent personalities. Each request for financial assistance is examined on merits.

Biomedical study on the burns caused by Fire Works

3505 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that studies done at the Centre for Biomedical Engineering for the past five years have shown that thousands of people become disabled due to burns caused by fire-works on Diwali; and

(b) what is the total number of patients admitted and treated for burns in Government hospitals in the country on Diwali this year?

THE MINISER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No authentic data regarding the total number of patients admitted and treated for burns in Government hospitals in the country on Diwali is available with the Government

Price control of the Anaemic Medicines

3506 SHRIMATI SUDHA' VIJAY JOSHI Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 79 per cent of the population is suffering from anaemic deficiency;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 40 per cent of pregnant women have deficiency anaemia; 'and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government on Kelkar Committee's recommendations for decontrol of prices of ferrous salts and other drugs going into the productions of Iron preparations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Studies conducted by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad of the I C M R have shown that prevalence of anaemia varies anywhere between 40—80 per cent depending on the age group About 60 per cent of pregnant women have anaemia

(c) Government have accepted the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee for the decontrol of prices of ferrous salts

Service benefits to the Ex-AMC doctors in the C.H.S

3507 DR RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Army Medical Corps doctors are eligible to enter the Central Health Services including Central Government Health Scheme only after passing a combined Health Services Examination conducted by UPSC and not otherwise by way of deputation or transfer;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, especially when these doctors enter the Army Medical Corps only after competing in a proper written test and being selected through interviews duly constituted central and comparable board; and

(c) whether the doctors who enter Central Health Services after a short service commission or a long term commission in Army Medical Corps are given benefit of service in their respective cadre by way of seniority or fixation of pay at definite stage in the scale by giving them the number of annual increment that he has already earned in his present service if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) In accordance with the Central Health Service Rules